



*SENATOR*  
***MICHELLE A. McMANUS***  
***McManus Minutes***



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***“This office belongs to the citizens of the 35<sup>th</sup> district.”***

*State Senator Michelle A. McManus*

**Senate economic stimulus package includes agriculture boost**

The Michigan Senate today gave a boost to the state's agricultural sector when it passed a package aimed at boosting Michigan's economy by blending private sector and state government resources to focus on creating high-tech, high-growth job opportunities.

The Senate approved an amendment to the package that would allow for funds to be used to support agricultural initiatives. Agriculture is a dynamic and growing industry that spurs research and development, promotes job growth and brings investment to our state. I've worked around cherries most of my life, and I am still amazed at how many ways this single crop impacts Michigan's economy.

The Senate economic stimulus package allows the state to take a portion of Michigan's annual tobacco settlement revenue and invest it in new ways to diversify the economy. The state will use the money to provide grants and loans to companies involved in the research and commercialization of new products while also stimulating venture capital investments in Michigan.

**McManus working to save 400 Cadillac jobs**

Legislation I sponsored that would keep 400 manufacturing jobs in Cadillac needs only the governor's signature to go into effect. Senate Bill 798 would create a rural retention credit within the Michigan Economic Growth Authority. This credit would be available to rural businesses with more than 300 employees that are at risk of being closed and the work being sent out-of-state.

The bill would allow a group of investors to purchase the Hayes Lemmerz facility in Cadillac and keep it in operation. Saving 400 jobs is a top priority at the moment, and I want to make sure the state is providing these investors with every available tool to keep this facility running. Ensuring access to MEGA's tax credit program is a sensible and easy thing to do to keep these jobs in our community.

Hayes Lemmerz International, a worldwide supplier of auto parts, currently operates the facility, but is looking to close or sell it due to financial difficulties. With this new tax credit, the group of investors will be able to buy the plant and maintain current operations under a new name.

**Contact Me**

My door is always open. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding state issues. You can reach my Lansing office by phone at: 517-373-1725; toll free at 866-305-2135, or contact my Cadillac District Office at 231-775-8599. If you received this as a forwarded message and would like to receive future legislative updates via e-mail, you can sign up at my website: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/mcmanus>.